

## “Knowing Your Local Church”

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### New Member's Class – Pt. 1

#### NEW MEMBER's CLASS Outline ...Getting to Know You

Week 1 - **Knowing Your Local Church** ...Defining the setting and mission; Local church governance and SGC association;

Week 2 - **Knowing what your church believes** – Doctrines, beliefs, teaching emphasis

Week 3 - **Knowing what your church practices** – ministries, serving settings, outreach, etc.

Week 4 - **Knowing Your Role in the Local Church** – Being Disciples and making disciples; Taking ownership of membership; Stewardship of your membership

#### INTRO ... “Getting to Know You”

- **Getting to Know us “on Paper”**

- **Statement of Faith** – a brief summary of the core doctrines of the faith
- **Church Covenant** – a series of beliefs and practices that summarize our commitment to Biblical Christianity

**1 Tim 3:14-16** | I hope to come to you soon, but I am writing these things to you so that, <sup>15</sup> if I delay, you may know how one ought to behave in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, a pillar and buttress of truth.

**1 Tim 4:6, 11, 13** | If you put these things before the brothers, you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus, being trained in the words of the faith and of the good doctrine that you have followed. ...<sup>11</sup> Command and teach these things. ... <sup>13</sup> Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching.

- **Getting to Know us in Person**

- Attend the church long enough to sense the Lord's leading to become a member
- Attend the new member's class
- Participate in a small group

- **Getting to Know You**

- Provide a written testimony of your conversion to Christ and that you've been water baptized since you became a Christian
- Read and sign the LCC Church Covenant (as a statement of your intentions to follow Christ and live a life that is consistent with the teachings of Scripture)
- Meet with one of the pastors

**What is the Local Church?** ... The Local Church is 2 Things: (1) It is a Relational & Functional Setting ... (2) It is a Missional Setting (we are on a mission together).

### (1) A RELATIONAL & FUNCTIONAL SETTING

- **The Local Church as a FLOCK**— a group or segment of the Sheep

1 Peter 5:1-5 So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed: 2 shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; 3 not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock. 4 And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory. 5 Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."

"among you" (critically Important!) ...it gives our lives "Territory" & Familiarity

- **The Local Church as a Family/Household**

Eph 2:18-19 For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. <sup>19</sup> So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,

...Family relationships and implications (unity, harmony, equal belonging)

1 Tim 3:14-16 I am writing these things to you so that, <sup>15</sup> if I delay, you may know how one ought to behave in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, a pillar and buttress of truth.

...There's a RIGHT WAY to take part in the Church

- **The Local Church as a Body**

1 Cor 12:12, 14 For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ...<sup>14</sup> For the body does not consist of one member but of many.

Eph 4:11-16 And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, <sup>12</sup> to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, <sup>13</sup> until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, <sup>14</sup> so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. <sup>15</sup> Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, <sup>16</sup> from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

- **One of the Most Important Strategic DISCIPLESHIP Verses in Scripture!**

CONCLUSION: If the Local Church is a Relational/Functional Setting, then Part of Our Mission is to Build Relationships with Each Other

## (2) A MISSIONAL SETTING

### The Tale of 2 Plaques

**Matt 11:28-29** ..."Come to me, all who are labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup> Take my yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls."

- **The Local Church as a REFUGE in a Fallen World**
  - Here are the 'elements' of the Fallen World Out there
    - Sin ...Spiritual forces of wickedness ...Temptations ...Suffering
  - ***Being a "Community of Healing" in this world takes care, knowledge, expertise, training, skill***—just like a hospital staff. What to say/not to say ...when to push, when to back-off ...how to encourage and not just correct ...
    - **Gospel + Safety + Time = Gospel Culture** —Ray Ortlund

...It Means Learning to Be a Community Where the Weary Find a Welcome! ...And Learning to Be a Community that is Shaped by Biblical Convictions!

**Matt 28:19** "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

- **The Local Church is a launching pad of the gospel into our community and into the world**
  - Local/Community Efforts of Outreach
    - ...YOU are the Outreach Epicenters of LCC ...the settings of your Everyday Lives are the Most Important Locations & Structures for meaningful evangelism!!
    - Organizations and Local Ministry Partnerships
  - Global Ministry
    - SGC
      - Regional Support, Care, and Equipping
      - Global Church Planting and Strengthening
    - Rancho 3M